

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087748

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 087748

TOSEC 46, S/S FOR ATHERTON

FOLLOWING TEL AVIV 2499 ACTION SECSTATE AMMAN BEIRUT
CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA USUN NEW YORK APR 29TH.

QUOTE:

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2499

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IS, SY

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS PLAY ON SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 2358

1. SCHWEITZER IN HAARETZ APRIL 26 CONCLUDES THAT CHANCES OF
ACHIEVING SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ARE BETTER
THAN EVEN BECAUSE IT NOT WORTH IT TO SOVIETS AND TO SYRIANS THEM-
SELVES TO LET PRESENT SITUATION CONTINUE. HE CALLS ON ISRAEL TO
ACT VIGOROUSLY TO PROTECT ITS VITAL INTERESTS IN CONCLUDING SUCH
AGREEMENT BUT AT THE SAME TIME NOT TO INSIST ON CONDITIONS OF
PRESTIGE.

2. HARIF IN MAARIV APRIL 26 SAYS ISRAELI CABINET IN COMING DAYS
WILL REVIEW ITS POSITION ON ALLEGED US PROPOSAL THAT KUNEITRA
REVERT TO SYRIAN CONTROL UNDER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. HE
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PAGE 02 STATE 087748

PREDICTS GOI WILL CONTINUE TO REJECT IDEA OF SURRENDERING

KUNEITRA, " AT LEAST IN THE FIRST STAGE." ACCORDING TO HARIF, SADAT HAS SENT ENVOYS TO PERSUADE ASAD NOT TO INSIST ON GETTING BACK KUNEITRA UNDER DISENGAGEMENT, SINCE LATTER IS ONLY FIRST STAGE.

3. HAARETZ' MILITARY ANALYST SCHIFF APR 26 WRITES THAT ISRAEL SHOULD TRADE KUNEITRA FOR TURNOVER OF SOME HERMON PEAKS SYRIANS NOW OCCUPY, PLUS THOSE IN ISRAELI HANDS, TO UNEF, SINCE HERMON CHAIN LIES BETWEEN FATAHLAND AND SYRIA. IN RETURNING KUNEITRA TO SYRIANS, SCHIFF SAYS ISRAEL SHOULD NOT GIVE UP TWO HILLS IMMEDIATELY WEST OF IT (TEL ABU NIDA AND THE SMALLEF HIL TO NORTH) BECAUSE THESE COMMAND SOME ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND ALSO EFFECTIVELY CUT OFF NORTHERN PART OF GOLAN HEIGHTS.
KEATING
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